

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EINV, EFIN, EGEN, JA

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH SAUDI ARABIA: JAPANESE
INTEREST IN COORDINATION WITH UNITED STATES

1. DURING CONVERSATION DEC 17 WITH FONOFF REP (KOJIMA, SECOND MIDDLE EAST DIV) RE MITI MINISTER KOMOTO'S PROPOSED TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST (SEPTTEL), KOJIMA RAISED QUESTION OF SAUDI ARABIAN SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN. KOJIMA SAID HE UNDERSTANDS THAT STANFORD RESEARCH INSTITUTE NOW IN PROCESS OF REFINING AND REVISING PLAN, AND HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH EMBOFF QUESTION OF HOW JAPAN AND UNITED STATES COULD COOPERATE RE A) IMPLEMENTATION OF SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN AND B) ACTIVITIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES' JOINT COOPERATION COMMITTEES WITH SAUDI ARABIA. KOJIMA NOTED STRONG INTEREST ON PART OF VARIOUS WESTERN COUNTRIES IN COOPERATING WITH SAUDIS, AND NEED TO AVOID EXCESSIVE COMPETITION AMONG THEM WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN PLACING SAUDIS IN STRONG BARGAINING POSITION VIS A VIS WESTERN COUNTRIES.

2. EMBASSY COMMENT: AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, JAPANESE HAVE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN RECENT MONTHS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN WORKING OF U.S.-SAUDI JOINT COMMISSION AND POSSIBILITIES FOR U.S.-JAPAN COOPERATION IN SAUDI ARABIA. IN RESPONSE TO SUCH INQUIRIES, WE HAVE GIVEN THEM COPIES OF U.S.-SAUDI TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND MINUTES
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OF FIRST JOINT COMMISSION MEETING. EMBASSY BELIEVES

SOME DEGREE OF USG-JAPAN COOPERATION RE SAUDI ARABIA
WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS IN PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR
MODERATING POTENTIALLY EXCESSIVE COMPETITION AMONG, AT
LEAST, USG AND JAPAN FOR SAUDI FAVORS, FOR STRENGTHENING
A MODERATE AND CONSTRUCTIVE JAPANESE ROLE IN SAUDI AFFAIRS,
AND FOR COORDINATING USG AND JAPANESE POLICIES TOWARDS
SUCH AN IMPORTANT COUNTRY AS SAUDI ARABIA. EMBASSY WILL
ENDEAVOR TO GET FULLER READING OF FONOFF THINKING ON HOW
SUCH COOPERATION MIGHT BE EFFECTED. IN MEANTIME, EMBASSY
WOULD APPRECIATE ANY THOUGHTS ON THIS SUBJECT DEPARTMENT
OR EMBASSY JIDDA MAY HAVE, AS WELL AS ANY RECENT INFOR ON
USG-SAUDI JOINT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES WHICH WE COULD
PASS ON TO FONOFF. END COMMENT.
HODGSON

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